

* A Man's View Of Violence Against Women *

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Tue/20/april/99 Men Against Violence Against Women *

Definition: The universally accepted term "Violence Against Women" means any act of gender-based violence, that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. It can occur in the home, the general community and be perpetrated and/or condoned by the State.

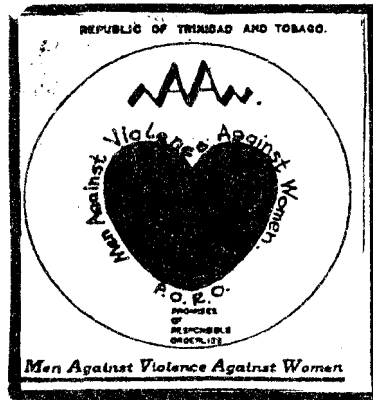
Q MAVAW: an individual MAVAW is any man who is against violence against women and has the commitment, experience and willingness to maintain a lifestyle that reflects his belief. Group MAVAW Men Against Violence Against Women is the registered non-governmental organisation of individual MAVAW's who work together or individually to eradicate this violence against women. Women join as friends

who work together or individually to eradicate this violence against women. Women join as friends.
Proaction: MAVAW there fore is a proactive way to take responsibility for male violence and to contribute towards the creation of a violent free society.
ie:-

- 1/ It puts concerned men to work and to identify with problem solving.
- 2/ It allows men trying to change to succeed in their efforts by working to help others.
- 3/ It tries to reach men in denial who still live in violent relationships by offering them support and a way out.

Philosophy: MAVAWISM is the pursuit of equal rights with consequent appreciation for the differences between the sexes, utilising the principle of equity and with an accent on bringing paternal responsibility back into the home where it is absent.

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Roots: As in all social change movements the world over, the first step towards change is to expose the deep roots of the issue. As a man, in my view, the roots we need to address here originate in the immaturity condition of a human being. This condition results in the aggressive, destructive behaviour of men and the passive, victimised behaviour of women.

This immaturity can exist in the physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of the personality and can be seen, in relation to man, by the three Bs:-

1/ Beliefs — the Self as Central and Separate.
— the Self as Superior.
— the Self as Deserving.

2/ Behaviour — uncontrolled anger,
— lack of social skills.

3/ Baggage (internal conflict.) — stresses in life
— early life experiences

(conflict)

early life experiences

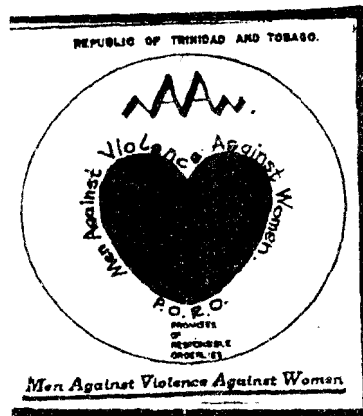
This immaturity condition, in relation to women, can also be seen by the three B's :-

- 1/ Beliefs — the Self as Secondary and Dependent.
— the Self as Inferior.
— the self as Worthless.
- 2/ Behaviour — repressed anger.
— inability to exercise social skills.
- 3/ Baggage (internal conflict) — stresses in life.
— early life experiences.

Paradox : This paradox acutely highlights how both male dominated and female dominated socialization processes can and will ultimately achieve social disorder eventually eliminating the human race as a species.

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Biology: The exceptional contributing factor to this "Theory of Immaturity" is also a "B", biological reasons. There are diseases of the brain that control and/or impact on those three conscious states within the individual personality and require medical treatment by Psychiatrists.

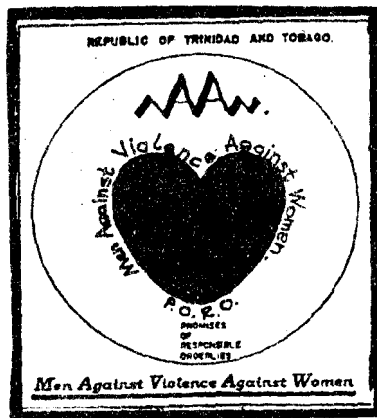
Solution: Psychotherapy is the accepted method for dealing with unacceptable behaviour. For Individuals, the most common form of treatment is obtained using the services of psychologists and psychiatrists.

For groups, and citizens in general, success can be obtained by re-education programmes. These programmes can be channeled via the print and electronic media for the general citizenry. They can form part of the curriculum in Schools and Universities and used in Institutions like Prisons and Hospitals. They can be given a special focus in NGO efforts and Employee Assistance Programmes (EAP) in business organisations.

business organisations.

Work: Work effort is necessary to supplement re-education, especially work in NGO activity. "Work is partly an attitude in the mind of the person, toward the activity in which he or she is engaged in at the moment" (Csikszentmihalyi 1993). Modern social scientists have recognized that in addition to the maintenance of bodily needs, considerable psychological gratification is derived from work in Western Cultures, despite our chronic complaints.

Methodology: Crime and Criminal Activity is a human behaviour. That behaviour could either be acceptable or non-acceptable according to societal norms. Some acceptable behaviour in some societies is non-acceptable in others. There are two disciplines that analyze and apply change methodologies to human behaviour. They are Psychology and Psychiatry.



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Psychiatry: in psychiatry, a branch of the medical sciences, a Biological Model is used to deal with diseases and disturbances of the brain and the behaviour that is typical of such conditions, only in human beings.

Psychology: in psychology, behaviour is analyzed via a Sociological Model, which considers external stimuli and a Psychological Model, which considers internal stimuli in human beings and other life forms.

These disciplines and the professionals within them must be brought to the front line in this war against crime, criminal activity and violence against women.

They have to provide the guidelines for our social policy makers. They should be on the relevant boards and in the Ministries seeking to correct Belief System and Behaviour Skill Deficits.

Skill Deficits.

NGO's: In addition, full use of and adequate enhancement must be added to the capabilities of the N.G.O.'s, Non Governmental Organisations. They are providing valuable assistance and making important contributions towards creating a violence free society focussing on the areas of:-

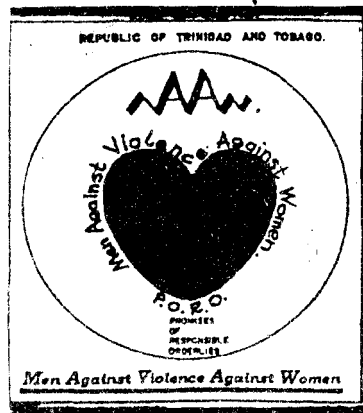
Proaction -

Reaction -

Targeted Areas: There are five (5) areas to concentrate on to eradicate violence against women and obtain a violence free society. In these areas peace achievement programmes can be used: eg

- Confronting Abusive Beliefs (CAB)
- Confronting Internal Conflict (CIC)
- External Conflict Resolution (ECR)
- Anger Management (AM)
- Behaviour Skill Development (BSD)
- Confronting Negative Beliefs.

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Area 1: Homes — Family Violence —

Using: Mass Media Re-education

Community Police

Community Support Groups

Non Governmental Organisations

Government Social Agencies.

Area 2: Schools — School Based Violence —

Using: Peace Achievement Curricula
Student Assistance Programmes
Student Support Groups
Parent / Teachers Associations.

Area 3: Technical Institutes and our University
— Dating Violence and Date and Acquaintance Rape.

Using: Peace Achievement Curricula
Student Assistance Programmes
Student Support Groups
Parent / Teachers Association.

University Teachers Association.

Area 4: Restrained Accommodation Institutions -

- prison/hospital violence -

using:

Confronting Abusive Beliefs
Confronting Negative Beliefs
Behaviour Skill Development
~~External~~ Conflict Resolution
Confronting Internal Conflict
Anger Management.

Area 5: Immediate and Extended Community

using: The Mass Media (both print and electronic)

Employee Assistance Programmes

Employee Support Groups

Anger Management

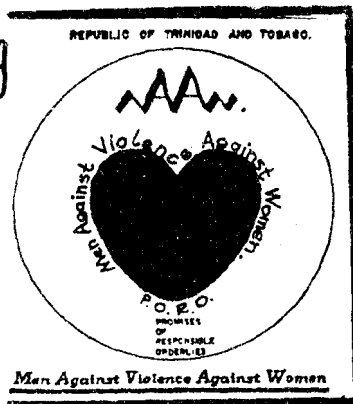
Work effort in NGO's etc

Having admitted, explored and ventilated on this problem, the next step is to initiate a holistic National Campaign to eradicate this violence in our society, demanding from a comprehensive Crime Reduction Policy.

Jamaica Nation Building

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